

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



## **SHAKER MUSEUM BREAKS GROUND ON NEW MUSEUM DESIGNED BY SELLDORF ARCHITECTS**

**Representatives from New York State Council on the Arts and Empire State Development Joined Chatham Mayor, Shaker Museum Board, Staff, Donors and Local Community to Commemorate the Kick-Off of the Project's Construction Phase**

***With \$5 Million in Support from New York State, the New Home for the Largest Collection of Shaker Material is Expected to Have a Significant Economic Impact on the Region and Draw More Than 30,000 Visitors Annually***

**CHATHAM, NEW YORK, April 8, 2025** – Shaker Museum, which stewards the most comprehensive collection of Shaker material culture and archives, held a groundbreaking celebration to mark the commencement of the construction phase on its new 21<sup>st</sup>-century museum home. Empire State Development Regional Director Michael Yevoli and New York State Council on the Arts Capital Program Director Katie Steger joined Chatham Mayor John Howe, Shaker Museum Board Chair Paul Cassidy, staff, donors and the local community to put shovels in the ground and get to work. Celebrating the Shaker legacy of providing, nourishing and building up its community and its neighbors, Shaker-style seed packets were distributed to attendees.

The new permanent facility in downtown Chatham, New York, will exhibit more than 18,000 pieces of Shaker material culture and was designed by Selldorf Architects, renowned design firm behind the enhancement and expansion of The Frick Collection and the National Gallery in London.

The project encompasses the renovation of a historic building that anchors downtown Chatham and the creation of an expansive addition to provide the cultural institution with almost 30,000 square feet of space over four floors. The design will embody Shaker values of inclusion, innovation, and equality to create a museum that both tells the Shaker story and is responsive to the needs of the community in Chatham, Columbia County, and the surrounding Hudson Valley.

The Museum estimates that the new facility will draw 30,000 visitors each year who will spend a projected \$1.75 million annually in the region and the expansion is expected to have a total economic impact of \$18.5 million and support 168 jobs in the Capital Region

according to an analysis commissioned by the cultural institution. The \$26 million project was funded by a capital campaign to support the facility, including generous grants from Empire State Development (ESD) and the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA).

“We are excited to officially begin this next chapter in Shaker Museum history and are thankful for the support of both ESD and NYSCA in this process. We know that this project will be an incredible testament to not just the Shaker legacy but the growth of the region as well,” said Shaker Museum Board Chair Paul Cassidy.

The nearly \$2.5 million grant from the New York State Council on the Arts was contributed via a program designed to support the recovery of the nonprofit arts and culture sector. Empire State Development has awarded Shaker Museum two grants totaling nearly \$2.6 million in support of this project.

**NYSCA Executive Director Erika Mallin said,** “This project embodies and perpetuates the core ideals of Shaker culture—it is accessible, welcoming, and sustainable. As a supporter of the Shaker Museum for over 50 years, the New York State Council on the Arts is proud to fund this expansive, elegant project that will bring the measurable benefits of arts and culture to the visitors and residents of New York.”

**Empire State Development President, CEO and Commissioner Hope Knight said,** “Tourism is a pillar of New York State's economy and, under Governor Hochul, we continue to make strategic investments in projects that will welcome visitors to explore and experience our communities. The expanded Shaker Museum will help to share the history of this movement and its lasting impact on the region.”

The new facility is part of a comprehensive campus that will include a 5,000 square-foot building on Jones Avenue which will house administrative offices, a lecture and workshop space for public events, a public reading room, and a library and temperature controlled archival facility for more fragile texts. The museum will also retain and maintain the historic Shaker site in Mount Lebanon, New York.

### **About Shaker Museum**

With more than 18,000 objects, Shaker Museum stewards the most comprehensive collection of Shaker material culture and archives. It is the leader nationwide among organizations devoted to Shaker history. Its permanent new facility in Chatham, New York, which is in development, was designed by Selldorf Architects. The museum also stewards the historic site in New Lebanon, New York, and will soon be moving its administrative offices, library, and archives to 29 Jones Ave. in Chatham. The museum’s collection can be viewed online at [shakermuseum.us](http://shakermuseum.us).

### **About Selldorf Architects**

Selldorf Architects is a 65-person architectural design practice founded by Annabelle Selldorf in New York City in 1988. The firm creates public and private spaces that manifest a clear and modern sensibility to enduring impact. Since its inception, the firm’s design

ethos has been deeply rooted in the principles of humanism. At every scale and for every condition, Selldorf Architects designs for the individual experience.

The firm has particular expertise in the complex requirements of cultural projects, having completed numerous museums, galleries, exhibition spaces, study centers and artists' studios. Selldorf is currently leading the expansion and enhancement of the Frick Collection and the renovation of the Sainsbury Wing and surrounding public realm at the National Gallery London, both opening this Spring 2025. Relevant museum clients also include the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, the Art Gallery of Ontario, Clark Art Institute, the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, Smithsonian American Art Museum, and Neue Galerie New York. In addition, the firm has completed galleries for David Zwirner, Hauser & Wirth, and Gladstone Gallery amongst others and designed exhibitions for the Frick Madison, Jewish Museum in New York, Whitney Museum of American Art, Corning Museum of Glass, and Venice Art Biennale.

**PHOTO FILES:**

[Link to renderings.](#)

Caption Info/Photo Credit: "Renderings of Shaker Museum, Designed by Selldorf Architects"

[Link to Photos](#)

Photo Credit: Catskill Photography Studio

**MEDIA CONTACTS:**

**Vicki Elkins**

Ainsworth Associates

Phone: 917 854 7539

Email: [vicki@ainsworthassociates.net](mailto:vicki@ainsworthassociates.net)